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Report of the Economic and Social Council

United Nations Population Award 2003

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund on the United Nations Population Award (see annex), established by the Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981. The report, which covers the year 2003, was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1982/112 of 26 April 1982.

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

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Annex

Report on the United Nations Population Award (2003)

I. Introduction

1. On 17 December 1981, the General Assembly adopted resolution 36/201, entitled "Establishment of the United Nations Population Award". The Award is presented annually to an individual or individuals, to an institution or institutions or to any combination thereof for the most outstanding contribution to increasing awareness of population questions or to finding solutions to them.

2. The laureate is selected by the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, which is composed of representatives of 10 Member States of the United Nations elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years.

3. On 5 December 1986, by its decision 41/445, the General Assembly amended article 2, paragraph 1, of the regulations governing the Award (Assembly resolution 36/201, annex), so that an individual and an institution could share the Award.

4. On 26 May 1987, by its decision 1987/129, the Economic and Social Council amended the rules of procedure of the Committee for the Population Award accordingly.

5. On 3 May 2000, the Economic and Social Council selected the following countries to serve on the Committee for a period of three years, beginning in January 2001: Burundi, Cape Verde, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, the Netherlands and the Republic of Moldova. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund serve as ex officio members. The Executive Director also acts as Secretary of the Committee. The Award consists of a diploma, a gold medal and a monetary prize.

6. On 3 May 2001, the Council elected Haiti to fill a postponed vacancy, for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003.

7. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council decision 2001/201 B of 3 May 2001, the Council further postponed to a future session the election of two members from Asian States and one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003.

8. On 10 May 2001, the Committee elected Haiti as Chair, led by its Permanent Representative, Mr. Pierre Lelong.

9. The Committee re-elected Haiti as Chair of the Committee for 2002, led by its new Permanent Representative, Dr. Jean Claude Alexandre.

10. On 26 March 2003, the Committee re-elected Haiti as Chair of the Committee for 2003.

II. The 2003 United Nations Population Award

11. Seventeen nominations from qualified nominators were received for the 2003 United Nations Population Award. Of these, nine were for the individual category and eight were for the institutional category. On 9 April 2003, within the mandate

given to it by the General Assembly, and after a thorough review of the nominations, the Committee selected as its laureates for 2003, Mr. Werner Fornos (United States of America) in the individual category and the Family Planning Association of Kenya in the institutional category.

12. Mr. Fornos was selected for his outstanding contributions in the population field, primarily in the area of advocacy. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that population and related issues have remained at the forefront of public and government discourse. As President of the Population Institute, which has trained a large number of professionals who now hold influential positions in donor agencies and non-governmental organizations, he created materials and techniques to increase awareness of world population growth and family planning programmes.

13. Mr. Fornos established the publications *Popline* and *Towards the 21st Century*, both of which are widely used throughout the world. He has been a successful advocate for population funding in the United States. Many feel that United States funding in the area of population would have been greatly diminished had it not been for his diligent advocacy. In the early 1980s, Mr. Fornos had convinced the International Relations Committee Subcommittee on Africa of the United States House of Representatives to hold hearings on the importance of population assistance to Africa, which resulted in a resumption of United States aid to family planning programmes in Africa.

14. The Family Planning Association of Kenya was selected for its important advocacy efforts in promoting gender equality and eradicating female genital cutting. The Family Planning Association of Kenya, a volunteer-based non-governmental organization founded in 1962, pioneered the family planning movement in Kenya. Its mandate is to promote the provision of sexual and reproductive health services within the context of reproductive rights and to empower the young people of Kenya.

15. The Family Planning Association of Kenya has grown from an organization comprising a few committed individuals into one with a staff of over 5,000. It took the lead in transforming the Kenya national family planning programme from a vertical, Nairobi-led programme into a more community-based, participatory programme at the local and regional levels. The family planning programme of Kenya then became one of the first in the world to experiment with the community-based distribution of contraceptives.

III. Financial matters

16. As at 1 January 2003, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Population Award had a total of $746,284. Interest income in 2002 was $22,984. Expenditures in 2003, including the prizes, totalled $46,759.